

# memorandum

DATE: December 14, 2011

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-AMPN-2

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Mari Rosales  
Realty Specialist – TERR-Bell-1

**Proposed Action:** Decommission ground water monitoring well located on Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) fee-owned property.

**PP&A Project No.:** 2163

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring

**Location:** Section 27; Township 40N; Range 43E; WM; Pend Oreille, WA

**Proposed by:** BPA

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to allow Seattle City Light access to a BPA fee-owned right-of-way (ROW) for the purpose of decommissioning a Seattle City Light-owned well. Seattle City Light historically installed ground water monitoring wells as part of the Boundary Dam licensing process in the 1950s and 1960s to study the impact of the Dam on ground water levels. One of these wells exists on BPA fee-owned ROW approximately 650 feet ahead-on-line from tower 107/1 [Ref Bell-Boundary #3]. Seattle City Light will hire a contractor to perform the work in accordance with the requirements for well decommissioning in the Washington Administrative Code 173-160-381. The project will involve the use of a trackhoe to pull the top 4-feet of well casing then the well will be grouted closed with a stable filler material such as bentonite. The contractor will be required to restore the site and remove any man-made materials from the site upon completion.

**Findings:** BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements.

This proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Philip W. Smith, for:

Elaine Stratton

Environmental Project Manager

Concur: /s/ Rick Yarde

Rick Yarde

Acting NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: December 14, 2011

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Seattle City Light Decommissioning Water Level Monitoring Well

Work Order #: N/A

**This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.**

<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources In the unlikely event that archaeological material is encountered during the implementation of this project, a BPA archaeologist will immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed. Washington DAHP and the appropriate Tribes will be notified of any future findings.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Elaine Stratton

Date: December 6, 2011